

Message Text

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10

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /025 W

----- 012491

P R 210844Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4331

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 3216

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (SIKES, ROBER L.F.)

SUBJ: CODEL SIKES

REF: A. DAO BEIRUT 0568, 201235Z AUG 75 (NOTAL;

B. DAMASCUS 3189 C. DAMASCUS 3135

1. REF A PROVIDED US EXTRACTS FROM BANGKOK 17378 CONCERNING CHANGES IN CODEL SIKES TRAVEL SCHEDULE. WE ARE ADDING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR NIGHT OF AUG 26 BUT ARE STILL HOLDING AUG 27 PENDING DIRECT RESPONSE FROM CODEL REQUESTED REFS B AND C.

2. AS WE EMPHASIZED IN REF C, WE SAW NO REASON TO ADVANCE CODEL ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS TO AUG 26. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT GUARANTEE POSSIBILITY OF APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT ASAD UNTIL CODEL'S ARRIVAL, WE DO BELIEVE THERE IS SOMEWHAT BETTER CHANCE FOR APPOINTMENT IF CODEL REMAINS IN DAMASCUS FROM NOON AUG 27 TO MORNING AUG 28, SCHEDULE WE HAVE ALREADY PRESENTED TO SARG BASED ON STATE 192946.

3. SO FAR AS WE AWARE, CODEL IS MAINTAINING AUG 28 DEPARTURE FROM BEIRUT AT 1330 VIA ME 251 FOR ATHENS. OVERNIGHT DAMASCUS AUG 27 WOULD STILL EASILY ALLOW FOR 0830 AUG 28 DEPARTURE BY CAR FROM DAMASCUS AND 1130 ARRIVAL BEIRUT.

4. ADVISE IF CODEL WISHES TO CONTINUE WITH 1800 AUG 26

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ARRIVAL DAMASCUS AS OUTLINED REF A ON UNDERSTANDING PRESIDENT

ASAD UNLIKELY BE AVAILABLE AUG 26 GIVEN STATE VISIT HERE BY
YEMENI PRESIDENT AND POSSIBLY NOT AVAILABLE PRIOR TO CODEL
ETD OF 1600 AUG 27, FOREIGN MINISTERIS OUT OF COUNTRY.
REQUEST CODEL PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INDICATION OF ITS INTERESTS
SO WE MAY SET UP MEANINGFUL APPOINTMENTS FOR MORNING AUG 27
IN SHORT TIME REMAINING.
MURPHY

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